

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/766,005

REMARKS

Claims 8-10, 12 and 13 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Preliminary matter

The Examiner has objected to the specification as allegedly not providing proper antecedent basis for the computer program product having a computer readable medium recited in the preamble of claims 8-10. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. For example, in the non-limiting embodiments discussed on at least pages 3 and 6 of the present Application, a “medium” containing a guide program is clearly set forth. Furthermore, on page 17 of the present Application, a CD-ROM, as a type of medium, is specifically set forth. Such disclosure explicitly provides support for the claimed medium and is proper in regard to 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Also, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge Applicant’s claim to foreign priority by checking the appropriate boxes on the Office Action Summary in a subsequent Office Action.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohtsuka (EP 0 804 018 A2) (“Ohtsuka”) and Takemura et al. (US 6,089,772) (“Takemura”).

A. Claim 8

Applicant submits that claim 8 is patentable over the cited references. For example, claim 8 recites, “monitoring a status information when a cartridge for printing is installed on the printer or the cartridge is replaced with another cartridge, the status information sent from the printer, where the printer is equipped with a sensor to detect that the cartridge has been attached; determining whether the cartridge for printing has been attached to the printer; and enabling a button for advancing process to be clicked by a user if it is determined that the cartridge has been attached to the printer.”

As set forth in the November 22, 2006 Amendment, in the present invention, when a new cartridge is installed or a used cartridge is substituted with a new cartridge, the process proceeds step-by-step. For example, whether the cartridge is attached is determined, and if attached, the system awaits a user operation of clicking “ok,” rather than proceeding to the next process automatically. Thus, users can easily understand the process they are conducting. Namely, if the process proceeded by just sensing the attachment of the cartridge, as soon as the user attached the cartridge, the displayed content would quickly change and could potentially confuse a user, especially those who are not familiar with printer operations.

The Examiner maintains that Ohtsuka discloses the claimed monitoring of status information. In particular, the Examiner cites to column 1 lines 16-19 and column 7 lines 33-35 of Ohtsuka as disclosing the claimed features. Applicant submits, however, that in the present invention, the installing or replacing operation of a cartridge is monitored. Namely the status is

meant to change from an un-install status to an installed status. On the other hand, Ohtsuka just makes sure an ink cartridge is certainly attached to the printer. The host PC assumes the ink cartridge is attached, and if it is not attached, the PC proceeds to error processing. The host PC does not wait until the cartridge is installed by a user.

Also, the Examiner refers to Figure 25, element s420 and column 25, lines 18-20 as disclosing the claimed determination of whether or not a cartridge has been attached to the printer. Applicant submits that in the present invention, it is determined that completion of installation of the cartridge has been performed. Namely, the claimed method waits until the cartridge has been installed, and determines whether the installing operation has been completed. On the other hand, in Ohtsuka, the detection of whether the cartridge is attached or not is to make sure a printing operation is available. If Ohtsuka detects that the cartridge is not attached, an error message is instantly displayed. Ohtsuka does not wait until completion of installing the cartridge.

Additionally, the Examiner maintains that Ohtsuka discloses the claimed step-by-step processing. In this regard, the Examiner cites to column 25 line 52 to column 26 line 3 of Ohtsuka. Applicant submits that in the present invention, the processing does not automatically proceed. The processing does not proceed until the cartridge is completely installed and a button has been enabled to proceed to the next steps. In other words, after the completion of installation of the cartridge, the present invention enables the button. On the other hand, Ohtsuka waits for the operation of selecting printing media under the assumption of the ink cartridge being attached. If the cartridge is not attached, it does not wait for the operation. Further, Applicant

submits that the operation of print media is not any type of displaying operation for awaiting the completion of installation of the cartridge.

Further to the above, the Examiner acknowledges that the Ohtsuka reference fails to disclose the enabling button for advancing processing by a user if it is determined that a cartridge has been attached to the printer, but contends that Takemura does. Specifically, the Examiner refers to Figure 46 of Takemura as disclosing the claimed feature. However, Figure 46 merely depicts a user interface regarding *print resolution*. For example, when a host processor 23 issues a command to print data, the printer driver 114 determines whether print resolution should be designated automatically or by the user (col. 82, line 63 to col. 83, line 5). A user interface, such as that shown in Figure 46 can then be displayed to the user for print resolution designation including printing speed and printing quality. Applicant submits that the print resolution interface fails to teach, suggest or relate to the claimed button for advancing processing when it is determined that a cartridge has been attached to a printer, as set forth in claim 8. Furthermore, there is no disclosed step-by-step process after any detection of cartridge installation as recited in claim 8. Thus, Applicant submits that Takemura fails to cure the deficient teachings of Ohtsuka.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 8.

B. Claims 9 and 10

Since claims 9 and 10 are dependent upon claim 8, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claims 12 and 13

Since claims 12 and 13 contain features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 8, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 8.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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23373

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Date: May 9, 2007